

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 01211 011422Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----036927 011425Z /40

O R 011110Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 247
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE 002
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 1211

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
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PAGE 02 BANGUI 01211 011422Z

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG, FR, BE, CT
SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: STATE 137343

I THINK IT HIGHLY LIKELY THAT CENTRAL AFRICA WOULD BE WILLING
TO PARTICIPATE IN A MULTILATERAL PEACE KEEPING FORCE. WE WERE

RECENTLY TOLD BY THE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE IN BANGUI THAT BOKASSA HAS ALREADY ASKED FRANCE TO TRAIN A FORCE OF 2-3,000 MEN TO BE USED TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT MALLOUM IN HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST REBELS. TRAINING WOULD BE CARRIED OUT AT FORMER FRENCH BASE AT BOUAR. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE FRENCH HAVE NOT YET MADE ANY COMMITMENT TO TRAIN CENTRAL AFRICAN TROOPS FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE ASSUME SUCH TRAINING TO BE A PRECONDITION TO CENTRAL AFRICAN PARTICIPATION IN A PEACE KEEPING FORCE SINCE BOKASSA WOULD PRESUMABLY NOT WANT TO ENDANGER HIS OWN SECURITY BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF CENTRAL AFRICAN MILITARY AVAILABLE IN COUNTRY. WE KNOW THAT BOKASSA IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE DETERIORATING STRATEGIC SITUATION IN CENTRAL AFRICA AND HIS PARTICIPATION IN A MULTILATERAL FORCE WOULD NOT ONLY ENHANCE HIS POSITION BUT DRAW HIM INTO A CLOSER SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH A NUMBER OF EXTERNAL POWERS. IT IS UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT BOKASSA CAN COME UP WITH A FORCE OF 3,000 MEN AND ANY EFFECTIVE CENTRAL AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IS LIKELY TO BE ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE THAN THAT PROPOSED TO FRENCH.

QUAINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BANGUI01211
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780229-0672
Format: TEL
From: BANGUI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806109/aaaadpqv.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4daec97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 137343
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2168219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, MASS, ECON, CG, FR, BE, CT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4daec97d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014